

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 96-148 were last presented in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 96-115, 118-138, and 141-148 are rejected. Claims 116, 117, 139, and 140 are objected to. By the foregoing Amendment, claims 96, 117, 120, 130 and 140 have been amended. Claims 115-116 and 138-139 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 96-114, 117-137 and 140-148 will be pending in this application. Of these forty-nine (49) claims, three (3) claims (claims 96, 120 and 143) are independent.

2. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

3. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claims 116, 117, 139 and 140 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Without addressing the propriety of the rejections, Applicants have amended the independent claims to place them in condition for allowance. Specifically, claim 96 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 115 and 116, and claim 120 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 138 and 139. Claims 115, 116, 138 and 139 have been cancelled, and the dependency of claims 117 and 140 have been amended accordingly. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims

6. The dependent claims incorporate all the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them independently patentable over the art

of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims are also allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

7. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

8. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application. Thus, cancellations and amendments of above claims, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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